DAWN

METRO South

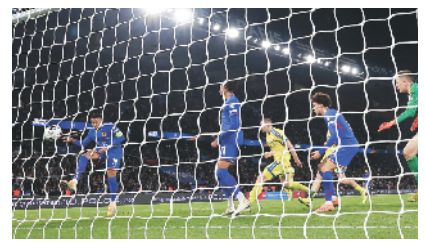
KARACHI Saturday, November 15, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:45pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:48am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	16°C
Maximum	31°C
Humidity	44%
Outlook	Sunny



France qualify for World Cup as Portugal, Norway forced to wait
Pg.19 SPORT

CM discusses investment, social uplift in meetings with envoys

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah met with ambassadors of Hungary, France, the Netherlands and the European Union (EU) and discussed bilateral cooperation, investment opportunities, heritage preservation and social development initiatives across the province.

Mr Shah met with Hungarian Ambassador Dr Zoltn Varga and had a detailed discussion on the promotion of archaeological sites and cultural heritage, including Mohenjo Daro, Makli Hills, Chaukhandi necropolis, and other ancient sites of the Indus civilisation.

"The people of Sindh are heirs to a 5,000-year-old Indus Civilisation. Our heritage reflects the roots of human history," he said.

The CM also met French Ambassador Mr Nicolas Gale, who was accompanied by Consul General Alexis Chahtahtinsky. The two sides exchanged views on the Asian Civilisations Museum in Paris and agreed to enhance cultural exchange programmes.

Mr Shah later met Dutch Ambassador Robert-Jan Siegert and discussions focused on strengthening bilateral economic ties, with emphasis on water management, agriculture, renewable energy and education.

He also met EU Ambassador Raimundas Karoblis. Their discussion centred on bilateral relations, investment and ongoing development cooperation.

The EU envoy informed the CM that a delegation of European investors was expected to visit Pakistan soon. The CM welcomed the initiative, saying their visit will help generate new investment agreements in Sindh. The CM assured all visiting envoys that Sindh remains committed to providing full facilitation, transparency, and security to foreign investors and development partners.—APP

SEWAGE has accumulated on University Road in front of the Federal Urdu University after a pipe burst during the BRT Red Line construction. — Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

SHC faults Sindh govt for bending rules in hiring Sepa chiefs

Bench orders HEC to verify academic credentials of incumbent DG Phulpoto

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: Expressing concern over ignoring technical expertise in the appointment to a specialised technical post, the Sindh High Court (SHC) has directed the provincial government that the eligibility and appointment of the director general (DG) of the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (Sepa) must remain subject to the requisite academic background, experience and technical expertise as envisaged under the law and rules.

Referring to some previous appointments to the same position, the SHC noted that the provincial government had acted inconsistently and manipulated the rules by alternately removing and reinstating the position of DG in the cadre list to accommodate preferred individuals.

A two-judge bench of the SHC comprising Justice Muhammad Faisal Kamal Alam and Justice Sana Akram Minhas also observed, "Such conduct amounts to a blatant manipulation of judicial directives and administrative authority, betraying a lack of good faith and demonstrating a clear disregard for the sanctity of the Supreme Court's Orders."

It further observed that the impugned notification about the appointment of the incumbent DG Sepa was defective as the same omitted and diluted essential academic and technical qualifications earlier prescribed for appointment to the post of DG under the Original Rules 2009.

However, the bench stated that there was no necessity to strike down the impugned notification after a provincial law officer made a statement affirming that the notification was intended to supplement and not supersede the earlier notifications and that the Original Rules 2009 continue to remain operative.

It also ordered the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to determine within four weeks whether the academic credentials of the incumbent DG Waqar Hussain Phulpoto and one of the petitioners Ashique Ali Langah meet the requisite recognition and qualification standards prescribed for the post of DG Sepa.

After such determination, the bench further said that the competent authority in the provincial government must consider and decide the eligibility, suitability and confirmation of the officers concerned strictly in accordance with the rules and the applicable law within eight weeks.

"In the meantime, the existing administrative arrangements shall continue without prejudice to the rights or claims of either officer, until a final decision is made by the competent authority - unless any defect is found earlier in the qualifications of the incumbent DG Waqar Hussain Phulpoto," it added.

The bench issued these directives while deciding three petitions filed against the appointment of Mr Phulpoto and Mr Langah, an additional director general of Sepa, who also contended that he has met both the prescribed academic qualifications and the requisite length of service and is lawfully entitled to promotion as DG Sepa.

The bench in its judgement said that the Supreme Court had passed an order in March 2017 and held that the post of DG Sepa was a cadre post, and at that time the position was held by Mirza Naeem Ahmed Mughal, a non-cadre officer and the apex court was palpably dissatisfied with the performance of Mr Mughal.

Thereafter, the provincial authorities had excluded the post from the cadre schedule in July 2017 and it was decided that the post would be filled in accordance with the Original Rules 2009 and a series of notifications were issued from time to time between 2018 and 2024 and despite all, Mr Mughal, a non-cadre officer, continued to comfortably hold the office of DG SEPA until his retirement in March 2025.

"This fluctuating and inconsistent sequence of actions unmistakably demonstrates that the government of Sindh has invoked and implemented the Supreme Court's orders selectively - using them as a matter of convenience rather than compliance. When it suited the government's purpose, the orders were rendered innocuous by

Continued on Page 14

JPMC chief Dr Shahid Rasul passes away

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Dr Shahid Rasul, the executive director of the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC), died of cardiac arrest here on Friday. He was 59.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Colleagues and hospital officials told *Dawn* his funeral prayers will be offered on Saturday (today) at Jama Masjid, JPMC at 1:15pm.

Dr Rasul was a professor of surgery at the JPMC. In 2020, he was appointed as pro vice chancellor of the Jinnah Sindh Medical University. In August 2021, the Sindh government had appointed him as the executive director of the JPMC.

Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed sorrow over his death and said in a statement that he will always be remembered for his services.

Health Minister Dr Azra Pechuho said she "was deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Dr Rasul.

"His contributions to public health, medical education, and patient care have left an imprint that will continue to guide us for years to come. He led JPMC with dedication, compassion and a firm commitment to serving the people not just from Sindh but all over Pakistan, especially those who rely on our public hospitals the most," she said.

Teenage boy dies by 'suicide'

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A teenage boy died by suicide in a Saddar locality on Friday, police said.

Preedy SHO Ayub Mirani said that Shoaib, 16, ended his own life by shooting himself at his home on Akbar Road near DC Street.

He said the parents of the boy had gone to attend a wedding in the area while their son was home alone. The teenager used his father's licensed pistol to take the extreme step.

The officer attributed the suicide to a family issue.

The body was taken to the Civil Hospital Karachi but the family told the police and doctors that they did not want any legal proceedings, Mr Mirani added.

Man axed to death

A young man was axed to death in Shah Latif Town on Friday, said police.

Area SHO Mumtaz Marwat said that Yameen Khan, 23, was killed near the bushes at Akmal Para in Kohi Goth. The officer said the victim was a woodcutter.

He had gone to the "jungle area" for cutting wood where unidentified suspect(s) killed him with his own axe.

He said one suspect, a watchman of a nearby plot, had been taken into custody for interrogation.

The body was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Police are awaiting the relatives to lodge an FIR to initiate a probe into the murder and its possible motive and identify the killers.

Moving scenes as DUHS mourns loss of three final-year students

VC Hossain says syndicate to consider award of posthumous MBBS degrees to deceased

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Moving scenes were witnessed at a condolence reference organised by the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) to mourn the death of three final-year medical students who drowned in the sea two days ago.

The condolence reference was attended by university administration, faculty members and a large number of students.

During her speech, DUHS Vice Chancellor Prof Nazli Hossain became emotional, and many participants were also moved to tears.

Prof Hossain said that the loss of Ahmed Kashif, Muhammad Asharib Munir and Syed Ashhad Abbas Fatmi was one of the most painful moments of life, one that will never fade from memory.

She said that teachers, like parents, guide and discipline their students only for their well-being. She advised students to share the grief of the martyred students' parents and to maintain a bond with them in the future, especially by visiting them on festive occasions, so that their sorrow may be eased.

She added that the DUHS Syndicate will consider awarding MBBS degrees to the deceased students.

Speaking on the occasion, Dow Medical College Principal Prof Saba Sohail said that the martyrdom of the three students may be the greatest tragedy in Dow's history.

"A catastrophe has struck these three families. Being a mother myself, I can understand the unimaginable pain these mothers are going through," she said, adding: "Children who lose their parents are called orphans, but there is no word to describe the grief of parents who lose their children."

Registrar Dr Ashar Afaq emphasised that classmates of the three students must try to maintain a connection with the families so their burden of grief may be lightened.

He added that this tragic incident has cast a wave of sorrow across the Dow family all over the world, and condolence messages are being received through social media and other channels.

Vice Principal Dr Shumaila Khalid, Prof Afrina Raza and fellow students also spoke.

On Nov 12, a group of students had gone for a picnic to Manora, where three of them drowned.

No chairs, tables of eateries on walkways along major roads

Commissioner announces 'zero tolerance' against encroachments by roadside food outlets, tea shops

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The city commissioner on Friday announced a 'zero tolerance' policy for placing chairs and tables on walkways and pavements along the roads that are 100 feet wide or more and strictly prohibited restaurants and eateries from encroaching on these areas.

As per the new standard operating procedures, no outdoor placement of chairs and tables or any obstruction on footpaths, service lanes or road shoulders along the major arteries (100 feet or more) would be allowed.

However, eateries on 60-100 feet commercial roads and below 60 feet neighbourhood streets can use the space with a prior no-objection certificate (NOC) from the town office and deputy commissioner concerned without obstructing movement of pedestrians or vehicles.

As per the mechanism of obtaining the NOC, the proprietor of an eatery will submit an application to the town municipal office with a trade licence, rental agreement and an undertaking.

The joint verification of the application would be conducted by the town municipal officer, traffic police and mukhtiarkar to assess obstruction, hygiene and nuisance potential.

The town officer will forward their recommendation to the deputy commissioner for conditional approval, valid of one year.

255 eateries unsealed

As many as 255 roadside tea shops and restaurants sealed for encroaching on walkways and pavements are now set to reopen after agreeing to follow the new SOP guidelines.

Officials said that the city administration on Friday decided to unseal the closed eateries after their association assured implementation of the newly framed guidelines.

They said that the decision to unseal was taken after the written assurance of implementation of the SOP by the restaurants association and the submission of a written affidavit by hotels.

Commissioner Syed Hasan Naqvi had formed a committee, headed by Additional Commissioner Ghulam Mehdi Shah, to prepare the SOP.

The committee, which also comprised deputy commissioners of districts East and Central and representatives of the restaurant association, to submit proposals to make it mandatory for hotels to be kept within their limit.

According to the SOP, roads have been divided into three categories: zero tolerance roads, 100 feet wide or more; commercial and secondary

Continued on Page 14

CAFE Piyala in Buffer Zone is sealed by authorities due to encroachments on the road.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star